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SERVICE NEWS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

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Benton, Miss Mildred

1939 BUDGET

The record-breaking \$1,089,719,344 Department of Agriculture appropriation bill signed by President Roosevelt on June 16 carries \$23,525,000 as the Soil Conservation Service's allotment for the fiscal year 1939.

Although this is less than the current budget of \$24,390,780, the Department of Agriculture has taken over certain items (rentals in the District, printing and binding costs, certain salaries in the Secretary's office) now being met by the Service, which makes the actual reduction some \$425,000.

The Service's preliminary estimate of funds needed in 1939 was \$37,337,000, revised to \$25,538,000 by the Secretary's office, and to the present figure by the Bureau of the Budget.

FLOOD CONTROL APPROPRIATION

The War Department Civil Functions Appropriation Bill, signed by President Roosevelt on June 11, and to be printed as Public Law 591, carries \$7,000,000 for the Department of Agriculture. Three million of this will be used for the examination and survey of watersheds, and \$4,000,000 for an operations program. Portions of this fund, to date undetermined, will be allotted to the Soil Conservation Service and to other bureaus involved.

DISTRICTS LAW CONFERENCE

In States having soil conservation districts laws, State Soil Conservation Committees are holding frequent conferences with supervisors of districts and representatives of various State and Federal agencies operating within districts.

J. Phil Campbell, Cooperative Relations Chief, recently attended such conferences in North Carolina, New Jersey and Georgia in

company with the Regional Conservators and State Coordinators. C. B. Manifold, Chief of Conservation Operations, also was present at the Georgia conference, and with Mr. Campbell and J. S. Barnes, of the Division of Conservation Operations, is planning to attend a short course for supervisors of soil conservation districts at Stillwater, Okla., the week of June 27. At an Arkansas districts conference of recent date, Lloyd Partain, Cooperative Relations, represented the Soil Conservation Service.

The main purpose of these conferences is to bring about an understanding among the various Federal and State agencies with regard to the services each will contribute to the conservation of soil and soil resources in the districts. The program and work plan of each district will set forth the problems, long-time objectives, methods of working, and functions of various agencies requested to assist the supervisors of the districts.

In Washington, at recent conferences held with land bank presidents of the Farm Credit Administration and regional directors of the Farm Security Administration, Mr. Campbell discussed, at the request of the administrators, the purpose of the soil conservation districts act, methods of organizing and conducting district programs, and the authority and responsibilities of district supervisors; and explained the nature of the assistance the Soil Conservation Service is now rendering the first districts to be created under State acts.

WESTERNERS IN WASHINGTON

Beginning June 6, information men from six western regions attended a five-day conference in Washington to discuss the role of information work in the soil conservation districts program. At different times during the meeting the men heard M. S. Eisenhower, Coordinator of Land Use Planning for the Department; Dillon S. Myer, Assistant Chief of the Service; J. Phil Campbell, Chief of the Division of Cooperative Relations and Planning; and Ivan L. Hobson, Head of the Section of Cooperative Relations in Extension.

Morse Salisbury, Department of Agriculture Director of Information; Wallace Kadderly, Chief of the Department's Radio Service; and Ernest Moore, Chief of the Department's Press Service, also spoke briefly during the sessions.

The western information men who met with the Washington information staff were Virgil Beck, Region 6; Don Shuhart, Region 7; Richard Boke, Region 8; Arthur Emerson, Region 9; Charles Jarrett, Region 10; and George Dunning, Region 11.

FIELD RESEARCH STAFF MEETS

Members of the field research staff were called to Washington last month by W. C. Lowdermilk, Chief of the Research Division, to discuss matters peculiar to their own work and those connected with their relationship to other branches of the Service.

Meetings were held in the South Building May 16-19. Presided over by Dr. Lowdermilk; M. L. Nichols, Assistant Chief; F. J. Hopkins, Chief of the Division of Administration; and D. S. Myer, Assistant Chief of the Service, they were attended by 32 field representatives and by members of the Washington staff.

The Chief's opening address on the place of research in the soil conservation program cited examples of the interrelation of research and operations in the field, touched on conservation work being done in foreign countries, and expressed faith in the ability of research men to accept the challenge of soil-destroying forces now at work in America.

Mr. Nichols described the application to field work of hydrologic studies made in Idaho as an illustration of the working out of a relationship between the Operations and Research Divisions; and N. R. Bear, Assistant Chief of Conservation Operations, spoke of the concrete assistance expected by the Operations Division from the research men.

R. E. Uhland, of the Research staff, told of the work of the 10 Soil Conservation Experiment Stations in providing direct information for practical application on project and camp areas; and went on to say that many sections of the country presented problems to which Experiment Station studies did not apply, leaving a wide field for further conservation research.

Mr. Nichols opened Tuesday's session by announcing that all planning and research programs should be within the confines of approved projects as set forth by W. A. Jump, Director of the USDA Finance and Budget office.

Dr. Lowdermilk stated that the objectives of research should be: to respond to the need for better conservation methods; to be adequate to the development of progressive operations; and to be applicable to the exigencies of field operations.

Followed a discussion of State programs, led by A. G. McCall of the Research Staff, which covered the questions of problems areas, sources of information on the needs of specific States, content

of the SCS research program and what it should accomplish, and the distinction between "fixed position" types of work (such as Experiment Station farms) and projects which migrate from place to place.

Administration and research activities was the afternoon's topic. Mr. Hopkins explained the workings of the Division of Administration as now organized, and urged a close cooperation between the Research Division and the Budget Section. Safety programs, the procuring and training of promising college students, and the necessity of research men informing themselves on important fiscal regulations were the subjects covered.

Samuel Goodacre, Assistant Chief of Administration, next led a discussion of the memorandum (No. 614) on Research Administration which has been in effect for some three months, the men from the field asking questions and giving their views on how it was working out. G. E. Ryerson of the Engineering Section closed the afternoon session with a proposal for pooling all SCS equipment and renting it to the different Sections on a daily basis.

James J. Jardine, Director of Research in the Secretary's office, the first speaker on Wednesday, took for his topic the relation of soil conservation research to the Department's research program. He emphasized the importance of keeping a proper balance between long-range research objectives and the immediate needs of the daily job in the field, and suggested that a final monograph might in many instances well be deferred until the writer was sure of all his facts.

The remainder of the morning was devoted to a consideration of the form in which research results should be presented. M. C. Merrill, Chief of the Publications Division of the USDA Office of Information, discussed publication outlets, funds available for printing and binding, and urged that manuscripts be clear, well-worded, refrain from discrediting views previously advanced by other bureaus in the Department, and state their conclusions briefly and concisely. R. W. Trullinger, of the Office of Experiment Stations, emphasized Mr. Jardine's remarks from the engineer's point of view.

Definite instructions for the preparation of manuscripts by Sydney Frissell, Technical Editor, Section of Information, and G. R. Stewart, of Dr. Lowdermilk's staff, were presented in a joint report. George A. Barnes, Head of the Section of Information, clarified the position of that Section in relation to the Research Division. The public is just as much interested in research as in operations, he said, and the information man's job is to interpret

and present the results of research in such a manner that the public can understand them. Wellington Brink, Editor of "Soil Conservation," spoke briefly on the type of material desired for the magazine.

In the afternoon session Edmund Stephens, in charge of Uniform Project System for the Department, interpreted the manual for organizing and operating projects which each attendant at the conference received on Monday; Mr. Stewart analyzed working plans; and Mildred C. Benton, the Service's Librarian, described the material in the SCS Library available to members of the Service.

Thursday morning was taken up with committee reports, and a consideration of safety engineering led by R. E. Uhland, of the Research staff, and M. H. Mills, in charge of Safety, Division of Administration.

The afternoon's session considered the relationship of the Research Division to the districts program, which J. Phil Campbell, Chief of the Cooperative Relations Division, discussed; and the Department of Agriculture program of flood control, explained by Arthur C. Ringland, Chairman of the Department's Flood Control Coordinating Committee. The SCS flood control program was presented by A. L. Patrick, Chief of Conservation Surveys, and R. H. Davis, in charge of Flood Control Surveys.

Friday was left open for discussion of special problems, and for unfinished business.

ECONOMICS RESEARCH CONFERENCE: MYERS TO AMARILLO

Nine field representatives of the Section of Economics of Soil Conservation have been called to Washington to participate in discussions of working plans, manuscripts and studies of an economic research character with officials of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and of the Soil Conservation Service. W. J. Roth is head of the Section.

Kenneth H. Myers, now in the Washington office of the same Section, will go to Amarillo, Tex., on July 1 to supervise economic research activities in Regions 6 and 7.

REGIONAL PROCUREMENT OFFICERS' MEETING

The procurement officers of the Soil Conservation Service from each of the eleven Regions held their annual conference in

Washington May 23-26. The agendum, the problems submitted for discussion, and the management of the meeting itself were all handled by the regional men. Shane MacCarthy, Head of the Procurement Section, and his assistants in Washington were in attendance at all sessions.

I. J. Meade, Region 1, Williamsport, Pa., acted as general chairman; and Glen McKenzie, Region 10, Santa Paula, Calif.; James Syme, Region 8, Albuquerque, N. M.; and John R. Moore, Region 5, Des Moines, Iowa, as committeemen.

Contributions to the discussion and the method of treating complex problems brought out clearly that the procurement officers had acquired a much keener insight into Federal procurement activities and related subjects than they had shown at previous meetings. The personnel of both the Washington and regional offices were most enthusiastic over the manner in which the meetings were conducted and the results achieved.

A joint session of the regional procurement and fiscal officers was held on the afternoon of May 25 to discuss common problems. This particular meeting enabled the men to get a clear and well-defined picture of activities which dovetailed into the work of each of the Sections. The joint session was concluded with addresses by C. P. Emery, Acting Head of Personnel and Training, and Samuel Goodacre, Assistant Chief of the Division of Administration.

Many of the regional procurement officers remained in Washington for a day or two after the meeting closed to check up on individual cases in which they were particularly interested, and to discuss with Mr. MacCarthy subjects which came to his attention during his recent visits to the regional offices.

THE CHIEF'S FIELD TRIP

In a cross-country swing through the Southwest to the Coast and back across the prairies, the Chief made addresses at the following places:

- June 9 Field Day at SCS project, Waldron, Ark.
- June 13 Field Day at SCS project, Vernon, Tex.
- June 14 Texas State Teachers' College Conference, Denton, Tex.
- June 17 U. S. Jr. Chamber of Commerce Annual Convention,
Oakland, Calif.
- June 23 Rural Life Conference, Ft. Hays, Kansas, State College,
Hays, Kans.

SCS WORK IN PUERTO RICO

George L. Crawford, in charge of SCS work in Puerto Rico, where his headquarters have recently been moved from Mayaguez to San Juan, is in Washington conferring with Division and Section heads on future plans and programs for the Island.

Mr. Crawford recently received the following statement from V. W. Thalmann, in charge of the Mayaguez project in Puerto Rico:

"You will be interested to know that we obtained on the de-surfaced run-off plot approximately 350 gallons of run-off to a 20-gallon catch tank full of soot; from the fallow plot we received approximately half as much run-off water and soot; on the Bermuda plot and on the molasses grass plot we received $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of run-off of pretty clear water from each; and on the Guinea grass plot we received about 4 gallons of run-off. It was one of the prettiest demonstrations of evidence of vegetation in controlling water run-off and soil losses that I have ever seen."

The Soil Conservation Service organization in Puerto Rico includes both research and demonstration projects. This report was from the research plots with a gradient of 37 to 43 percent. The larger part of Puerto Rico is mountainous, and some cultivated land has a gradient of over 100 percent.

PROGRAM FOR THE RIO GRANDE

A committee to be known as the Interdepartmental Rio Grande Board has been selected by joint action of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to operate in an advisory capacity with regard to the work of the two Departments in the Rio Grande watershed.

This drainage area is now seriously depleted as a result of overgrazing, and a large proportion of the population has become dependent upon the Federal Government for direct and work relief. The Federal agencies concerned, in order to coordinate their activities and to cooperate effectively with State, local and private agencies, have created the Interdepartmental Board.

Functions of the Board will include initiating surveys of the area, formulating land-use programs and recommending appropriate legislation for carrying them into effect; assisting Federal agencies in carrying out their respective parts of the watershed program and calling for progress reports on same.

The Agriculture and Interior Departments have each named four members to the Board. Hugh G. Calkins, SCS Regional Conservator in the Southwest, is one of the Agriculture representatives, and will act as Vice Chairman of the Board.

WASHINGTON MONOGRAPH COMMITTEE

APPOINTED

To formulate a policy for the preparation and publication of project monographs and to continue work previously done by the field committee, a Washington Monograph Committee has been appointed.

Chairman is Henry H. Collins, Jr., formerly Special Assistant to the Chief in charge of W. P. A. relations, now on indefinite detail to the Section of Information to handle the development of project monographs.

Members of the Committee are:

George A. Barnes, Section of Information
 Melville H. Cohee, Section of Cooperative Planning
 R. H. Davis, Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys
 John S. Barnes, Division of Operations
 Guy R. Stewart, Division of Research
 Samuel Goodacre, Division of Administration.

The Division of Administration will be responsible for future cooperation with W. P. A.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARD

Richard Hufnagle, regional photographer at Salina, Kans., placed second in a photographic contest conducted during the annual photographers' short course held at Oklahoma University several weeks ago. First place was won by the staff photographer of the Dallas News. J. M. Mitchell, Region 4 photographer, Fort Worth, Tex., was among the amateur and newspaper photographers from all sections of the country who attended the short course.

PICTURES IN THE PATIO

Harold G. Anthony, in charge of visual information, Section of Information, reports that the SCS exhibit shown in New York City at the First International Photographic Exhibition in April has been placed on view in the patio of the Administration Building.

Eleven enlarged photographs illustrate the use the Service is making of the camera in disseminating facts about erosion and its

cure. Arranged in three groups, they show conditions of erosion; how photography is used in planning a soil conservation program; and the Service's measures now in use on the land.

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

A. L. Patrick, Chief of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, will make a dinner address on July 1 at the Ninth Southwest Soil and Water Conservation Conference, to be held at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Tex.

CLIMATIC RESEARCH NOTE

C. W. Thornthwaite, Head of the Section of Climatic and Physiographic Research, presented a Progress Report of the Ohio Climatic Research Center at the meeting of the American Meteorological Society, held at the University of Kansas, Kansas City, Mo., June 9-11. Fortnight previous, Dr. Thornthwaite was in New Philadelphia, Ohio, where he was in charge of the session of the Association of American Geographers.

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

Effective July 1, Warner T. Stockberger, USDA Director of Personnel, will act as special adviser to the Secretary on administration problems. Dr. Stockberger will be succeeded by Roy F. Hendrickson, now Assistant Director.

DIRECTORY OF GEOLOGICAL WORKERS

A directory is being compiled to facilitate the exchange of geological information relating to soil conservation.

For purposes of future reference, it is requested that employees of the Soil Conservation Service who have had geological training submit their names, addresses, and a statement of present activities to Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite, Head of the Section of Climatic and Physiographic Research, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

Engineering contributions to the economy of abundance will be the central theme of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers' annual meeting at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Calif.; June 27-30.

Since the farmer's income is determined by the margin between the cost of production of farm commodities and their selling price, factors that tend to reduce his costs will increase his income, enhance his buying power, and improve his living conditions. Technologies used by agricultural engineers to further cost reduction and considered in the Society's program include those of mechanics, structures, electricity, and soil and water conservation.

Soil Conservation Service members who will address the Soil and Water Conservation Division of the meeting and the subjects of their papers:

F. D. Matthews, Region 8 Engineer, "Flood Irrigation for Soil and Water Conservation on Range Land in the Southwest"

H. E. Reddick and J. G. Bamesburger, Region 10 Conservator and Engineer, respectively, "Erosion Control on Steep Irrigated Slopes"

Eugene C. Buie, SCS Agricultural Engineer, "The Value of Level Terraces for Dry-land Farming"

D. B. Krimgold, Section of Watershed and Hydrologic Studies, "Studies of Run-Off from Small Drainage Basins"

L. S. Tschudy, Region 7 Engineer, "Report of Sub-Committee on Reservoirs and Ponds"

W. C. Lowdermilk, Chief of the Research Division, will address the Resident Instruction Group on "Agricultural Hydrology", and read a paper on "Soil Conservation in Relation to Flood Control" at Wednesday's general meeting.

T. B. Chambers, Head of the Engineering Section, is chairman of the Society's Soil and Water Conservation Division, and will preside over two of its sessions.

C. E. Ramser, Head of the Watershed and Hydrologic Section, is a member of the Council of the Society.

A post-meeting inspection trip will visit the Corralitos Creek SCS project at Watsonville, Calif.

TEACHING CONSERVATION IN TEXAS

"Doubtless never again in the lifetime of the student will he have an opportunity to hear so many specialists in a course for which college credit is given and which deals with a subject of national importance."

Thus Dean B. B. Harris of the North Texas State Teachers College described the course in Conservation of Natural Resources offered at Denton this summer.

By including a study of conservation in the college's schedule, President W. Joseph McConnell aligns himself with the State Board of Education's progressive revision of its entire curriculum, product of a four-year study, to base it more specifically on Texas economic and social life and traditions. This new course of study will cover all subjects and all areas, and extend through the State public school system from kindergarten through high school. The Board is now studying ways in which it can integrate units in soil conservation into various portions of this curriculum wherever they are related to the major unit studied.

President McConnell, feeling that conservation should be included in a well-balanced education, has arranged his six-weeks course at an hour that will not conflict with major courses of study, and encouraged all attendants at the summer session to register for it. More than 1,000 have enrolled.

The two-week section devoted to soil and water conservation was opened by the Chief, who called his lecture "An Introduction to the Study of Water and Soil Conservation." Succeeding lectures in the series were given by members of the SCS technical and project staffs, each on his own specialty; and the course closed with an analysis of "The Teacher's Opportunity in a Soil and Water Conservation Program" by Helen M. Strong, in charge of SCS educational relations.

Following her talk at the conference dinner which closed the SCS division of the conservation course, Dr. Strong addressed a radio audience on "The School Teacher and Soil Conservation." During the next month she will visit Albuquerque, N. M., Santa Paula, Calif., Spokane and Cheney, Wash., and Rapid City, S. D., to attend meetings, make addresses, and confer with regional education and information personnel.

SOIL CONSERVATION SHORT COURSE

To acquaint the stenographic and clerical employees of the central office in Region 7 with the work of the Soil Conservation Service, a short course of 12 meetings has just been completed. The course, under the supervision of A. G. Kirkpatrick, regional personnel officer, consisted of 11 discussion periods and an all-day field tour of demonstration erosion control areas.

The desire of employees to learn more about soil conservation, and the feeling that a better understanding of the soil conservation program would promote interest in work being done prompted

the course. All lessons were designed to enable employees (one-third of whom had never lived on farms) to answer generally any question that might be asked about erosion control practices recommended by the Soil Conservation Service.

Eighty-six persons enrolled and attended one or more of the 12 meetings. Seventy completed the course with an attendance at 7 or more meetings. Meetings were in the form of illustrated lectures, a reflectoscope projecting 40 to 60 pictures at each session. In addition to the pictures, other illustrative material, such as sample conservation surveys and cooperative agreements, was used.

At the close of the course, an optional examination consisting of 25 questions was given. Topics discussed included: erosion as a national problem; causes of erosion; history and origin of the Soil Conservation Service; conservancy districts; planning programs of soil and moisture conservation; the use of vegetation and mechanical measures in erosion control.

S. C. S. PUBLICATION

RECORD

For the benefit of those interested in specific forthcoming Service publications, SERVICE NEWS will from time to time give the status of material in process of publication. The following record is of June 21.

The following manuscripts have been prepared for department publication and are now in Government Printing Office:

Farmers' Bull.	Soil Defense in the Northeast.	G. K. Rule
Farmers' Bull.	Soil Defense in the South.	E. M. Rowalt
Tech. Bull.	Soil Conservation Survey of the Froid Demonstration Proj., Mont.	W. C. Boatright
Tech. Bull.	Soil Conservation Survey of the Reedy Fork, N. C., Area.	Stevens, Bragg, Sease, and Lewis
Leaflet	Erosion on Roads and Adjacent Lands.	Arnold M. Davis
Leaflet	Legumes in Soil Conservation Practices.	A. J. Pieters
Misc. Pub.	Bibliography on Erosion and Soil and Water Conservation.	S. H. Gaines
Misc. Pub.	Native Woody Plants of the United States, Their Erosion Control and Wildlife Values.	W. R. Van Dersal

Manuscripts prepared for departmental publication which have received interbureau clearance and will be sent to Government Printing Office at an early date:

Farmers' Bull.	Native and Adapted Grass for Conservation of Soil and Moisture in the Western and Prairie States.	M. M. Hoover
Farmers' Bull.	Prevention and Control of Gullies.	Hans Jepson
Tech. Bull.	Principles of Gully Erosion in the Piedmont of South Carolina.	Ireland, Sharpe, and Eargle
Tech. Bull.	Soil Conservation Survey of the Minot and Bottineau Areas, N. Dak.	Holowaychuk and Boatright
Circular	Soil Erosion in the Karst Lands of Kentucky.	Dicken and Brown
Leaflet	Soil Depleting, Soil Conserving and Soil Building Crops.	A. J. Pieters
Misc. Pub.	To Hold This Soil.	Russell Lord

HAVE YOU READ?

"Bio-dynamic Farming," by Ebernfried Pfeiffer
 "Erosion and Soil Conservation," by G. V. Jacks and R. O. Whyte
 "Mother Earth," by G. W. Robinson
 "The Cycle of Weathering," by B. B. Polynov.

All are available for loan from the Library.

